



ATLAS COMICS



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THE BRUTE

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FROZEN SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME,
THE BRUTE RETURNS TO FACE
MONSTROUS PERIL in
**"ATTACK OF THE
REPTILE MEN"**



OUT OF THE PAST HE CAME, A NIGHTMARISH BEAST-MAN FROM THE VERY PAWN OF TIME, A MURDEROUS, BLOOD-HUNGRY MONSTER CAUGHT SOMEWHERE IN THE EVOLUTIONARY TWILIGHT BETWEEN APE AND MAN.

THE **BRUTE!** IN **ATTACK OF THE REPTILE MEN**

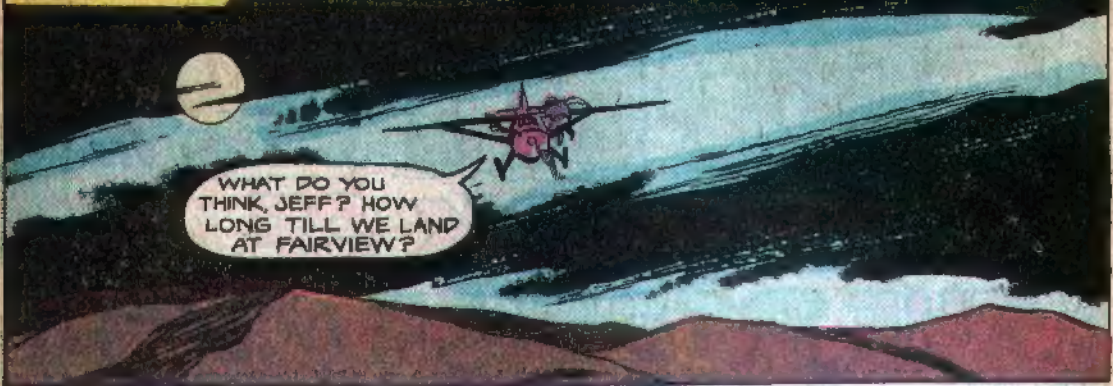
YOUR DOOM IS AT HAND, BEAST-MAN! NOT EVEN A MONSTROSITY LIKE YOU CAN HOPE TO PREVAIL AGAINST THE MONSTERS I HAVE CREATED!



WRITTEN BY
MICHAEL FLEISHER
DRAWN BY
MIKE SEKOWSKY
INKED BY
PABLO MARCOS
LETTERED BY
ALAN KUPPERSBERG
EDITED BY
JEFF ROVIN

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SOMEWHERE OVER RURAL MINNESOTA, A LIGHT PLANE DRONES GENTLY ACROSS A MOONLIT SKY...



WHAT DO YOU THINK, JEFF? HOW LONG TILL WE LAND AT FAIRVIEW?



OH, PROBABLY ANOTHER THREE HOURS OR SO, UNLESS WE RUN INTO SOME BAD WEATHER OR SOMETHING!

GOOD! WE'LL HAVE TIME FOR A FEW HOURS SLEEP AFTER WE LAND...



BEFORE TROTTING OFF TO THAT TEN O'CLOCK **BUSINESS** MEETING!

SAY, ED...

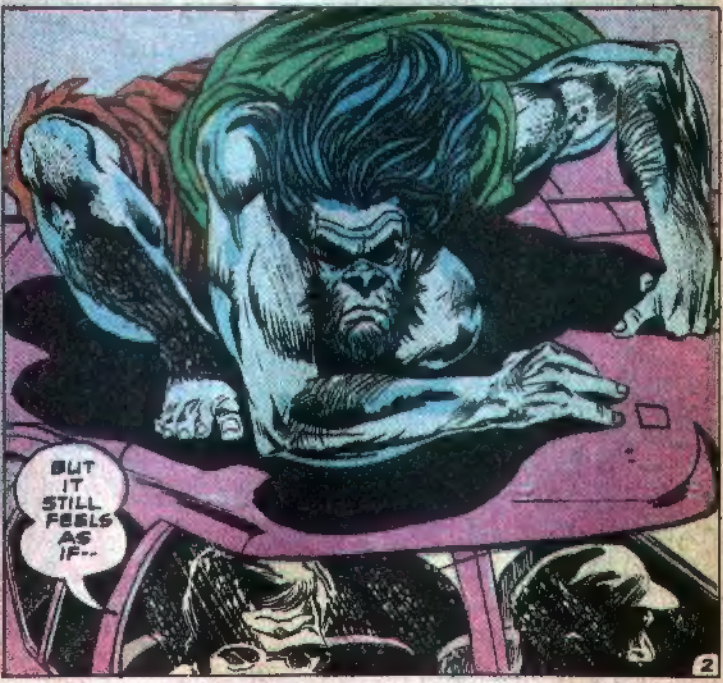


HAVE YOU NOTICED THE PLANE SEEMS TO BE LISTING TO THE LEFT... AS IF WE WERE BEING WEIGH-ED DOWN BY SOME-THING?

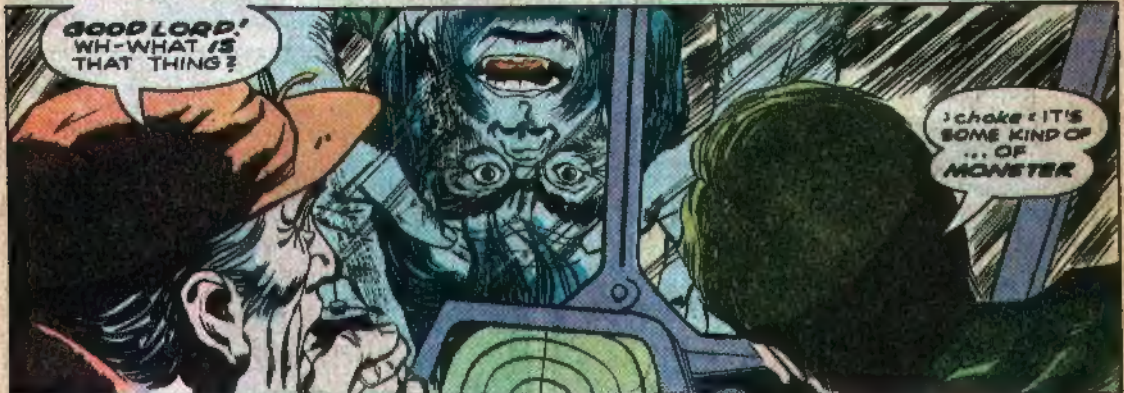


CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT IT'D BE, JEFF! THE INSTRUMENTS ALL READ OKAY, AND THE ENGINE IS PURRING LIKE A KITTEN!

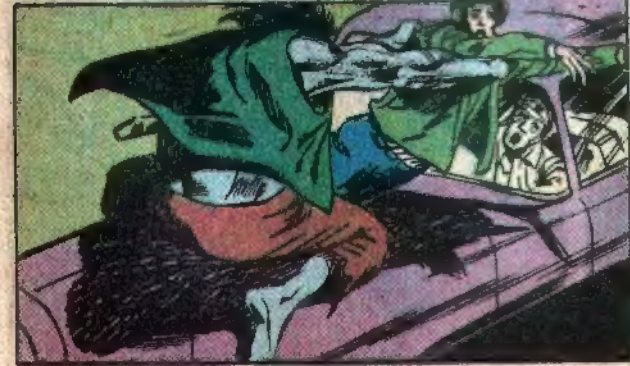
YEAH, I KNOW!



BUT IT STILL FEELS AS IF--



WITH THE SAME MASSIVE STRENGTH THAT ONCE SLAUGHTERED MIGHTY MASTADONS... THE FEAR-SOME MAN-BEUTE TEARS HIS COWERING VICTIM FROM THE AIRPLANE'S COCKPIT...



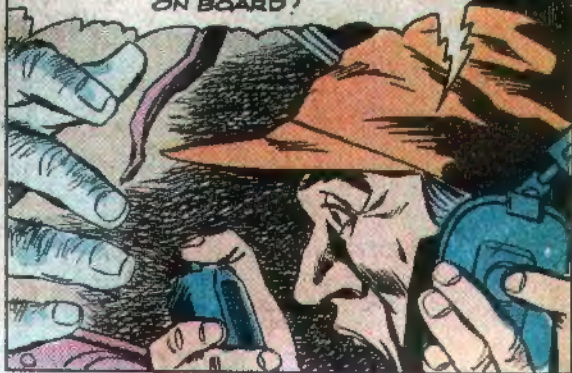
... AND SENDS HIM SHRIEKING INSANELY THROUGH THE VELVET VOID!



...TO SPLATTER IN A HUNDRED GORY
FRAGMENTS AGAINST THE LUSH
GREEN FOREST BELOW!



MAYDAY! MAYDAY! THIS... THIS IS SONG-
BIRD SHIT, FLYING DUE SOUTH TOWARDS
FAIRVIEW FROM HARGRAVE, MINN-
ESOTA! I HAVE A... A MONSTER
ON BOARD!



HE--HE'S KILLED
JEFF CONYERS
AND...AND...

OH MY
GOD!
NO!

IT IS NOT ANGER, BUT FEAR
OF THIS NEW WORLD THAT SENDS
THE BRUTE INTO VIOLENT ACTION!



BUT THE END RESULT
IS THE SAME!

PLEASE! DON'T!
I-I HAVE A WIFE
BACK HOME...
AND... KIDS!



I--I BEG YOU! YOU'LL CRASH WITHOUT
ME! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? YOU'LL
DIE TOO!



BUT THE SNARLING BEAST-MAN CANNOT EVEN
COMPREHEND THESE WORDS. ALL HE
KNOWS IS THE LAW OF SURVIVAL! KILL OR
BE KILLED...



DESTROY OR BE DESTROYED...



YAAHHHH

HE HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT THESE FLYERS MEANT HIM NO HARM... THAT THEIR PLANE BUT A MACHINE, NOT A FEARSOME PTERANODON!



AAARRGGH!

BUT WHAT CAN A PRE-HISTORIC MAN-BRUTE KNOW OF THE MODERN WORLD...



... SAVE THAT IT IS A DANGEROUS WORLD ... WITH INCOMPREHENSIBLE MENACE BOTH MECHANIZED AND ...



... HUMAN! LOOK, DOCTOR! I--I TOLD YOU I SAW SOMETHING! I TOLD YOU I DID!

YOU WERE RIGHT, ERIC!

EXAMINE THE WRECKAGE **CAREFULLY!**
WE MUST SALVAGE EVERY SINGLE
ELECTRONIC **PART** THAT MIGHT
POSSIBLY BE OF USE IN OUR **WORK!**



THE **ENGINE**, FOR EXAMPLE! EVEN
IF IT MALFUNCTIONED, WE CAN--

DOCTOR,
LOOK--



THIS AIRPLANE
WAS CARRYING
A **MONSTER!**

HMMM...INDEED IT WAS,
ERIC! AND ALTHOUGH IT
SEEMS ALMOST
IMPOSSIBLE...



... IT APPEARS THAT
HE'S STILL ALIVE!
HA! HA! HA!

I'VE HEARD OF THIS
MONSTER, ERIC! HE'S
THE PREHISTORIC
BEAST-MAN WHO
WAS **FROZEN** FOR
EONS IN A BLOCK
OF ICE!



COME! **FORGET** THE
AIRCRAFT COMPONENTS!
WE MUST GET THIS BRUTE
BACK TO THE LABORATORY
AT ONCE!

FOR, AFTER
SOME MINOR
SURGERY, HE
WILL FIT IN
PERFECTLY
WITH MY
PLAN FOR
VENGEANCE!



PRESENTLY, INSIDE A SECRET LABORATORY HIDDEN DEEP WITHIN THE VASTNESS OF A MINNESOTA FOREST...

WHAT AN AMAZING SPECIMEN HE IS, ERIC! EVEN AFTER THE CRASH, NOT A SINGLE INTERNAL INJURY! AND AFTER THE OPERATION, HE'LL BE AS GOOD AS NEW!

THAT IS GOOD, DOCTOR!

ALL MY LIFE, ERIC, I HAVE LABORED UN-CEASINGLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF MAN-KIND!

I KNOW THAT, DOCTOR! YOU ARE A GREAT SCIENTIST AND HUMANITARIAN!

FOR YEARS IT HAS BEEN MY DREAM TO CREATE A RACE OF REPTILE MEN, CAPABLE OF LIVING UNDERWATER!

FOR THEY WILL BE ABLE TO SURVIVE A NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST THAT IS SURE TO COME AS THE SUPER-POWERS CONTINUE TO DEVELOP THEIR HELLISH NUCLEAR ARSENALS!

YET, I HAVE BEEN PROSECUTED BY THE SCIENTIFIC ESTABLISHMENT FOR DARING TO PROBE THE FORBIDDEN FRONTIERS OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES...



HOW CAN I POSSIBLY SAVE THE HUMAN RACE FROM ANNIHILATION IF I CANNOT BE ALLOWED A FEW PALTRY HUMAN SUBJECTS ON WHICH TO EXPERIMENT?

I ADMIT I HAVE EXPERIENCED A FEW MINOR FAILURES! EVERY GREAT SCIENTIST MUST HAVE HIS FAILURES... LIKE THE MEN WHO DIED BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT BREATHE PROPERLY UNDERWATER!



MEN LIKE ~~THE~~ ONE WHO MUST REMAIN FOR A LIFE-TIME INSIDE A WATER-FILLED TANK!

BUT THEN, WHOM HAVE I USED FOR ALL THESE EXPERIMENTS? BUMS, DERELICTS, HOBOS! MEN WHOM SOCIETY HAD CAST OUT! MEN OF NO VALUE TO ANYONE, INCLUDING THEMSELVES!



BUT MY FELLOW SCIENTISTS GREW JEALOUS OF MY WORK! THEY TOOK AWAY MY LICENSE TO EXPERIMENT... EVEN TRIED TO HAVE ME SENTENCED TO A LONG TERM IN PRISON.



I KNOW, DOCTOR!

AH, BUT DO YOU KNOW **WHY** I BE-
CAUSE THEY WANTED TO STEAL
THE GLORY OF MY ACHIEVE-
MENTS, THAT'S WHY!



WELL, I'M GOING TO LET
THEM SHARE IN THE **GLORY**,
ALL RIGHT! BUT NOT IN THE
WAY THEY **EXPECTED**!



FOR MY MISTAKES
HAVE NOT BEEN IN
VAIN, ERIC. I HAVE
LEARNED FROM
THEM **ALL**!



NOW I AM READY
TO CREATE A RACE
OF PERFECT **REP-**
TILE MEN! AND
MY FIRST FLAWLESS
SUBJECTS WILL
BE **shh hoh** THE
MEMBERS OF THE
ACADEMY THEM-
SELVES!

JUST THINK OF THE **GLORY**
THAT WILL BE **THEIRS**, ERIC!
NOW COME! WHILE THE BRUTE
SLEEPS WE MUST IMPLANT
THIS MIND-CONTROL
ELECTRODE INSIDE
HIS **BRAIN**!



THEN WITH THE AID OF THIS **ELECTRONIC CONSOLE**, HE WILL BE
COMPLETELY IN MY **POWER**, OBEDIENT TO MY EVERY **WHIM**!

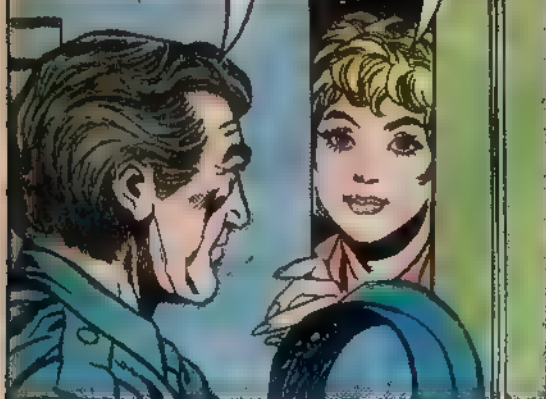
HE WILL USE HIS GREAT **STRENGTH** AND
BESTIAL **CUNNING** TO KIDNAP MEMBERS
OF THE **ACADEMY** SO THAT WE MAY
ENABLE THEM TO HELP US IN OUR GREAT
WORK!



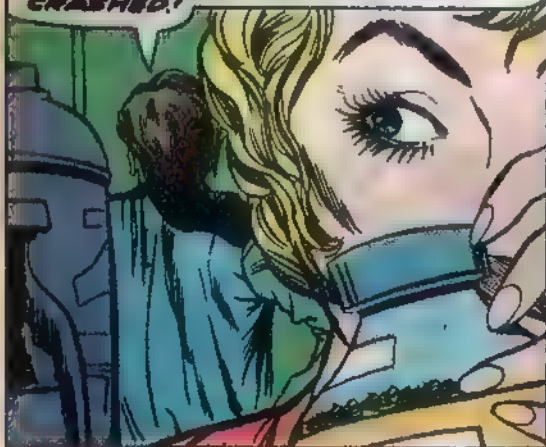
MEANWHILE, SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES AWAY...

I'M SORRY TO AWAKEN YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT LIKE THIS, DR. TURNER, BUT I'M AFRAID IT'S IMPORTANT.

OF COURSE, CHIEF FRAZIER, COME IN!



THE PILOT SOUNDED PRETTY MYSTERICAL, BUT HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A MONSTER BEING ON BOARD HIS AIRCRAFT. THEN THE RADIO WENT DEAD. THE PLANE MAY HAVE CRASHED.



I DON'T SUPPOSE EVEN THAT MONSTER COULD'VE SURVIVED A PLANE CRASH. BUT IT'S STILL MY JOB TO GET OUT THERE AND FIND HIM.

WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS, CHIEF?



IT'S ABOUT THE BRUTE? HE'S...

THE BRUTE? YOU MEAN HE'S BEEN FOUND... CAPTURED?



WELL, NO... NOT EXACTLY, BUT WE PICKED UP A MAY DAY CALL ABOUT AN HOUR AGO FROM A SMALL PRIVATE AIRCRAFT HEADED SOUTH TOWARDS FAIRVIEW.

OH MY GOD! ARE YOU SAYING THAT...?

COULD BE! THE BRUTE MAY HAVE HIDDEN ABOARD THE AIRPLANE SOMEHOW, AND... AND WHO KNOWS WHAT HE DID AFTER IT TOOK OFF!



THE BRUTE'S ALREADY KILLED AT LEAST FOUR PEOPLE, DR. TURNER! IF MY MEN FIND HIM, THEY'LL PROBABLY SHOOT FIRST AND ASK QUESTIONS AFTERWARDS.

BUT IF YOU COULD MANAGE TO CATCH UP WITH HIM FIRST... WELL, WE LIKE YOU! MAYBE SOMEHOW THINGS COULD END UP WITHOUT BLOODSHED.



I KNOW HOW YOU **FEEL** ABOUT THAT BRUTE, ABOUT HIM BEING A VALUABLE SCIENTIFIC FIND AND ALL!



ANYWAY, I'M TELLING YOU ALL OF THIS BECAUSE I WON'T BE GOING AFTER HIM UNTIL MORNING! I'LL SHOW YOU THE MAP CO-ORDINATES WE'VE GOT AND, WELL, IF YOU CAN MANAGE TO GET THERE **FIRST...**



MAYBE YOU CAN SAVE HIM FROM BEING **ADDED** WITH POLICE **BULLETS!**

OH, CHIEF, **THANK YOU!** JUST GIVE ME THE LOCATION! I'LL SET OUT **RIGHT AWAY!**



MEANWHILE, THE UNCONSCIOUS BRUTE IS SUBJECTED TO A MULTITUDE OF VICIOUS EXPERIMENTS...

THERE, ERIC! THE MIND CONTROL IS IMPLANTED! IN A MOMENT THE BRUTE WILL AWAKEN AND WE SHALL SEE IF MY BRILLIANT OPERATION HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL!



...EXPERIMENTS THAT WILL LEAVE HIM EITHER DR SPEER'S **SLAVE...** OR LEAVE HIM **DEAD!**

YES, DOCTOR

TENSE SECONDS PASS, AND THEN...

AARRRGHH!

QUICKLY, ERIC! TURN UP THE ALPHA DIAL TO FULL POWER! IF I DO NOT QUICKLY ESTABLISH FULL CONTROL OVER THE MIND OF BRUTE, HE WILL NOT HESITATE TO DESTROY US BOTH!

IT'S UP TO FULL NOW, SIR!



SOMETHING BUZZES WITHIN THE BRUTE'S BAFLED BRAIN!



AARRGH!

AM, HE COMES TO HIS SENSES!
LOOK AT HIM! HOW BEWILDERED HE IS! IT'S
AS IF HE IS AWARE, EVEN IN THAT BESTIAL MIND
OF HIS, THAT HE IS NO LONGER HIS OWN MASTER!

NOW, ERIC, WATCH
THIS, FOR IT WILL
TELL US IF WE HAVE
SUCCEEDED OR
FAILED!

BRUTE!
THAT CINDER
BLOCK! I
WANT YOU TO
SMASH
IT!



HE
DOESN'T
UNDER-
STAND
YOU,
DOCTOR!

HE CANNOT CONTROL
HIS ACTIONS, SO...

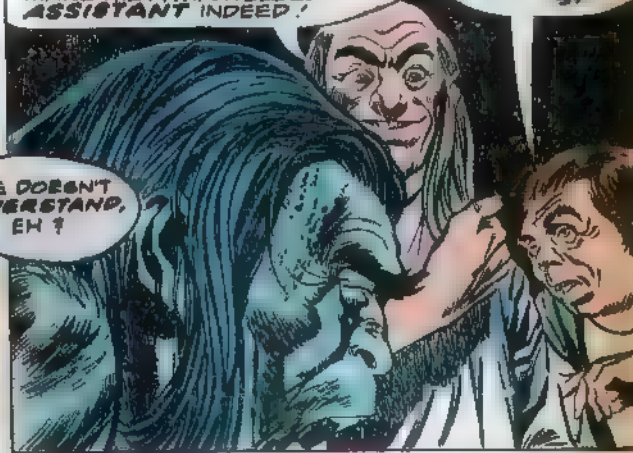


WHRAM!

WELL DONE, BRUTE! NOW THAT
YOUR PRIMORDIAL POWER HAS
BEEN HARNESSSED, YOU WILL
MAKE ME A MARVELOUS
ASSISTANT INDEED!

ASSISTANT!
BUT, DOCTOR--
I AM YOUR
ASSISTANT!

HE DOESN'T
UNDERSTAND,
EH?



FOR
YEARS
I HAVE...

I KNOW, ERIC, BUT
NOW YOU HAVE OUT-
LIVED YOUR USEFUL-
NESS TO ME. YOU
HAVE GROWN TOO
QUESTIONING, TOO
INDEPENDENT!



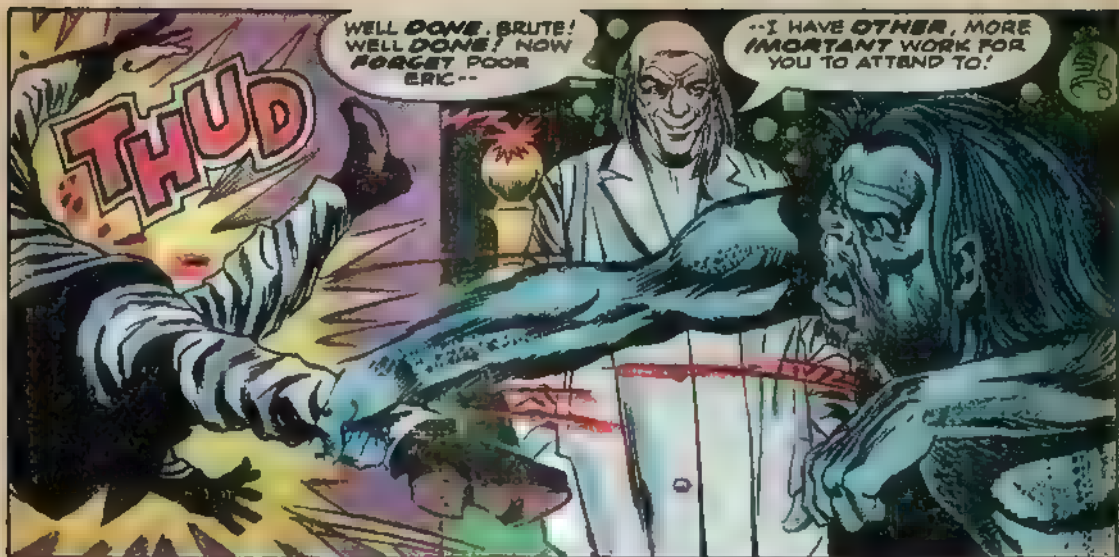
NO, PROFESSOR,
YOU KNOW I--

BRUTE! DESTROY
HIM!



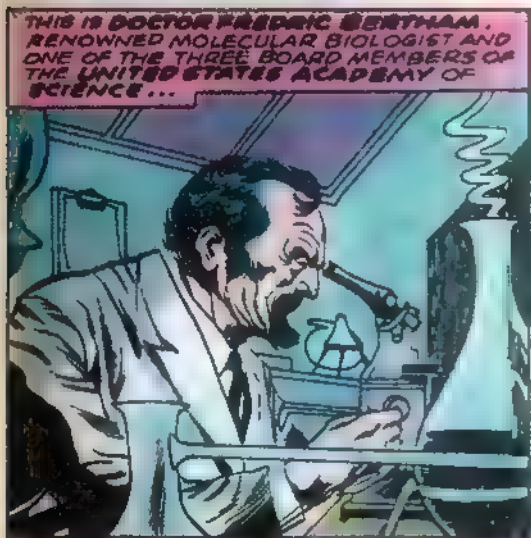
GROWWR!

AGAIN THERE IS THAT STRANGE INSECT IN THE
BRUTE'S EAR, AND AGAIN, HE MUST OBEY!

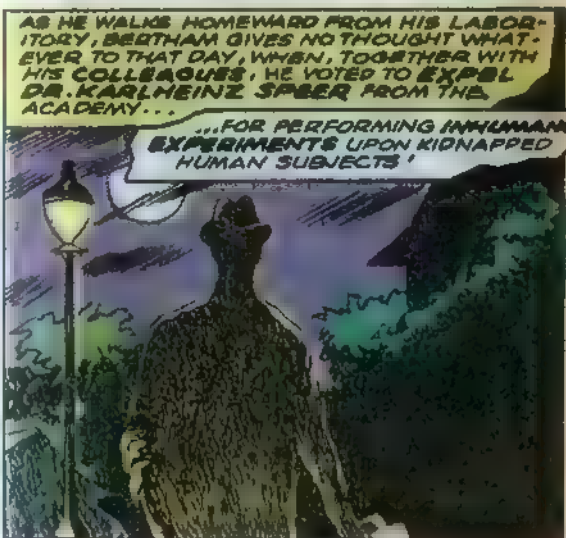


WELL DONE, BRUTE!
WELL DONE! NOW
FORGET POOR
ERIC--

--I HAVE OTHER, MORE
IMPORTANT WORK FOR
YOU TO ATTEND TO!



THIS IS DOCTOR FREDRIC BERTHAM,
RENOWNED MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST AND
ONE OF THE THREE BOARD MEMBERS OF
THE UNITED STATES ACADEMY OF
SCIENCE ...

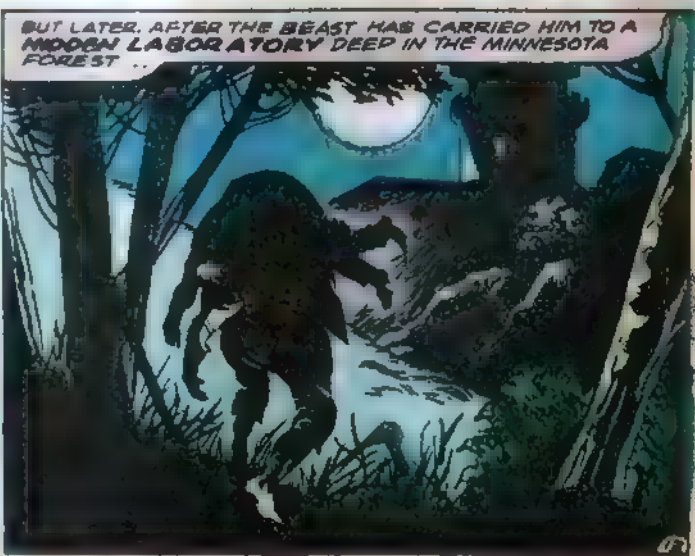


AS HE WALKS HOMEWARD FROM HIS LABOR-
ATORY, BERTHAM GIVES NO THOUGHT WHAT-
EVER TO THAT DAY, WHEN, TOGETHER WITH
HIS COLLEAGUES, HE VOTED TO EXPEL
DR. KARLHEINZ SPEER FROM THE
ACADEMY...

...FOR PERFORMING INHUMAN
EXPERIMENTS UPON KIDNAPPED
HUMAN SUBJECTS!

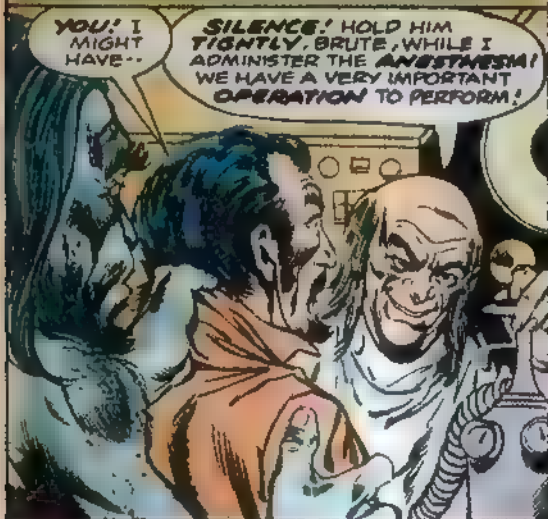


WHEN THE ENSLAVED BRUTE BURSTS
FROM THE NEARBY FOLIAGE, THE
NOTED BIOLOGIST DOES NOT THINK
TO RECALL THE INCIDENT!



BUT LATER, AFTER THE BEAST HAS CARRIED HIM TO A
HIDDEN LABORATORY DEEP IN THE MINNESOTA
FOREST ...

DR BERTHAM SUDDENLY... REMEMBERS...



YOU! I MIGHT HAVE--

SILENCE! HOLD HIM TIGHTLY, BRUTE, WHILE I ADMINISTER THE ANESTHESIA! WE HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT OPERATION TO PERFORM!

SOMETIME LATER... NUCLEAR PHYSICIST DOMINIC BECKMAN PREPARES FOR BED...



AS HE DOES SO, THE PHD PONDERES THE NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT OF DR BERTHAM'S MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE...



...LITTLE SUSPECTING THAT HE WILL BE THE NEXT TO VANISH...

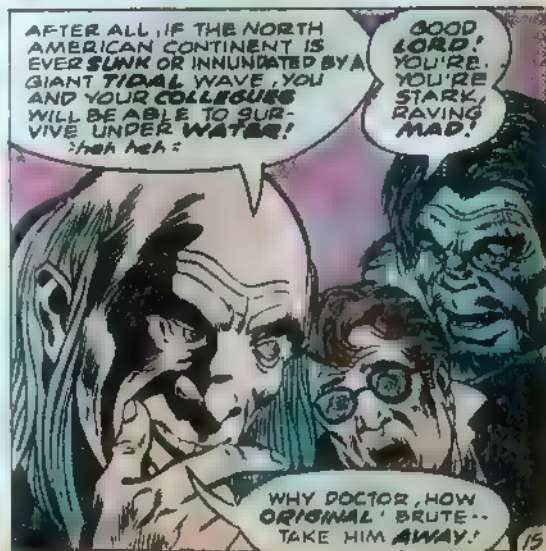
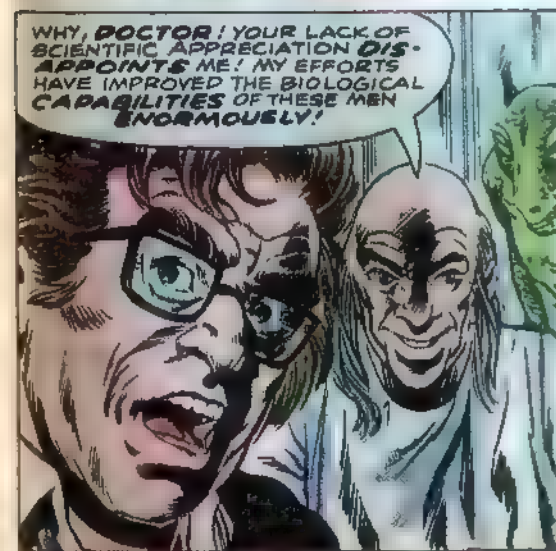
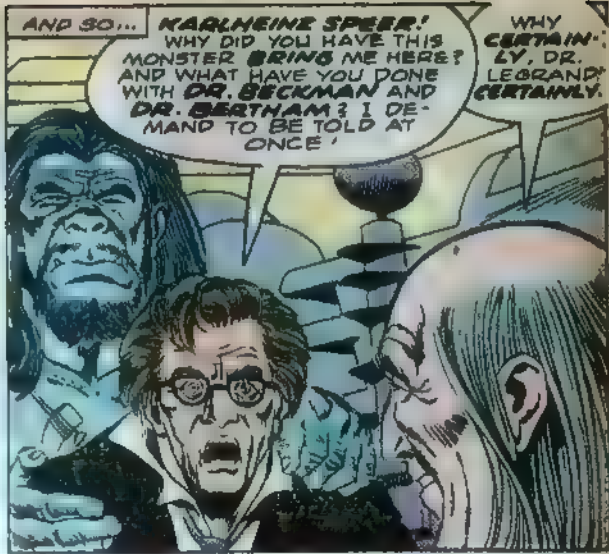


AND THIS IS DR. LEGRAND ... THIRD MEMBER OF THE ACADEMY'S GOVERNING BOARD. WHEN NEWS OF DR BECKMAN'S DISAPPEARANCE BECAME KNOWN, HE ARRANGED A POLICE GUARD TO BE PLACED AROUND HIS HOME...

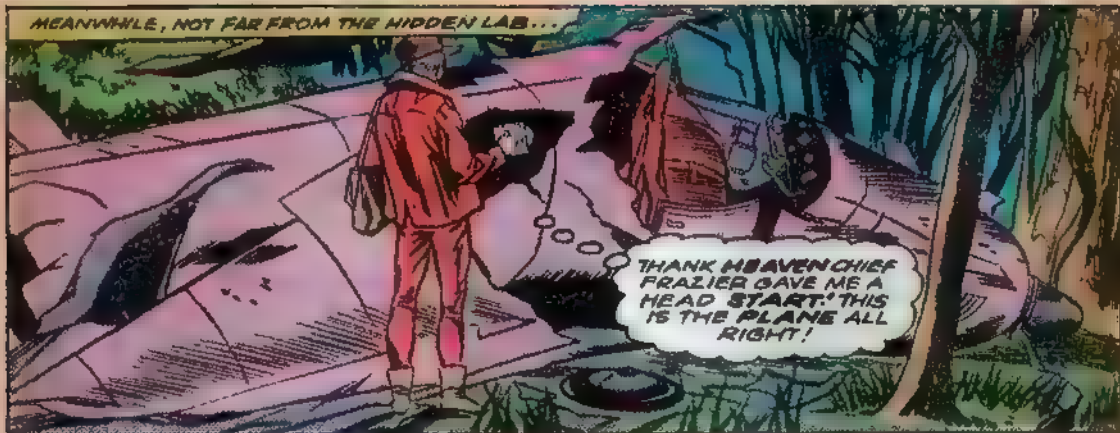


BUT WHAT CHANCE HAS A MERE POLICE-MAN AGAINST THE MIGHT OF THE BRUTE!





MEANWHILE, NOT FAR FROM THE HIDDEN LAB...

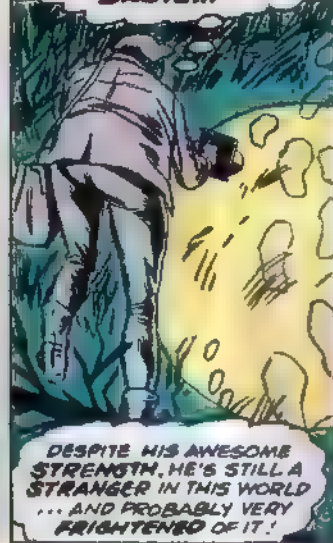


AND THESE TRACKS... LEADING UP TO THE AIR-PLANE AND THEN AWAY AGAIN!

WOODSMANSHIP ISN'T EXACTLY MY SPECIALTY BUT IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE THESE WERE MADE BY TWO MEN CARRYING SOMETHING AWFULLY HEAVY!



AND I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO FOLLOW THE FOOTPRINTS AND HOPE THAT SOONER OR LATER THEY LEAD ME TO THE BRUTE...



DESPITE HIS AWESOME STRENGTH, HE'S STILL A STRANGER IN THIS WORLD ... AND PROBABLY VERY FRIGHTENED OF IT!

AND SO IT IS THAT PRESENTLY...

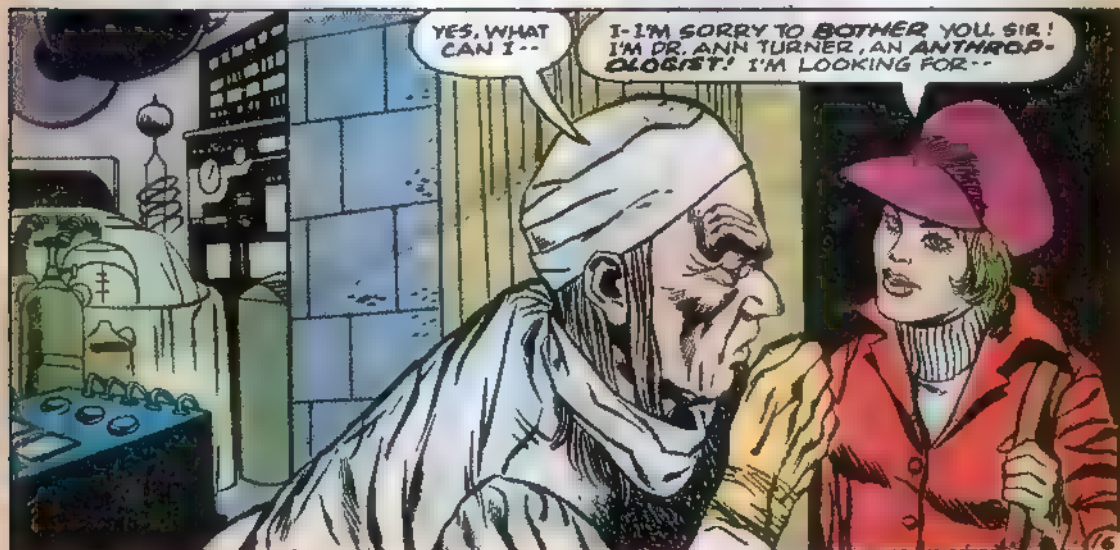
YOU'LL ENJOY THIS EXPERIMENT, BRUTE! I'M GOING TO GIVE DR. LE GRAND THE FACE OF A PLATYPUS SO THAT...

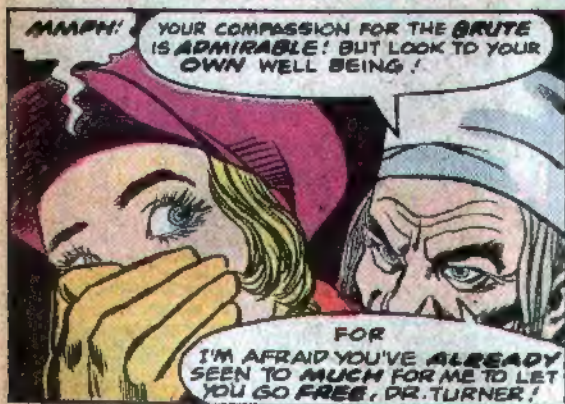
WHA--? WHO'S THAT?



YES, WHAT CAN I--

I-I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU SIR! I'M DR. ANN TURNER, AN ANTHROPOLOGIST! I'M LOOKING FOR--





BUT THE SIGHT OF ANN TURNER IN THE CLUTCHES OF THIS FIENDISH ANIMAL CAUSES SOMETHING TO SNAP IN THE MIND OF THE BRUTE...

GROWRRR!

I SAID TO HELP ME! YOU'RE COMPLETELY UNDER MY MENTAL CONTROL! YOU MUST DO EXACTLY AS I SAY!

THE GIRL IS HIS FRIEND! HE'S TRYING TO PROTECT HER!

ARRGHH!

THE ALPHA TRANSFORMER! IT HAS NO EFFECT ON HIM! SOMEHOW HE'S...HE'S BROKEN FREE OF MY CONTROL!

BUT... BUT THIS WILL STOP HIM! I KNOW IT WILL!

CLIK

AS THE VILLAINOUS SCIENTIST PASSES A BUTTON ON HIS ELECTRONIC CONSOLE, BARS THAT IMPRISONED THE FEARSOME REPTILE MEN RISE SILENTLY UPWARD AND...

NOW, MY BEAUTIES! DESTROY HIM! DESTROY THE BRUTE FOR HAVING THE AUDACITY TO DISOBEY ME!

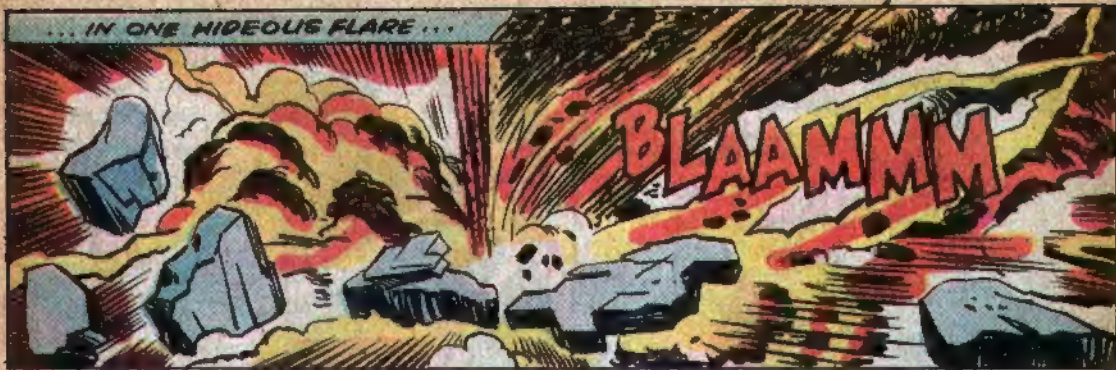
BUT THE PATHETIC REPTILE MEN ARE NO MATCH FOR THE PREHISTORIC FEROCITY OF THE BEAST MAN...



AS THE MANIACAL DR. SPEER HURTTLES INTO THE ELECTRONIC CONSOLE, CRACKLING ELECTRICITY COURSES THROUGH HIS BODY, PARALYZING EVERY NERVE...



... IN ONE HIDEOUS FLARE ...



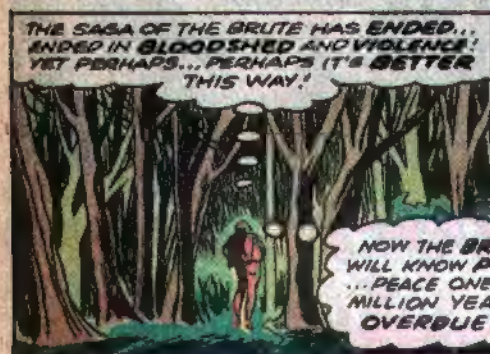
NOTHING COULD HAVE SURVIVED THAT HORRIBLE EXPLOSION! NOTHING!

NOT EVEN THE BRUTE!



I HAVE FAILED!

THE SAGA OF THE BRUTE HAS ENDED... ENDED IN BLOODSHED AND VIOLENCE! YET PERHAPS... PERHAPS IT'S BETTER THIS WAY!



NOW THE BRUTE WILL KNOW PEACE... PEACE ONE MILLION YEARS OVERDUE!

... ANN TURNER IS GONE, AND THE NIGHT IS STILL...



THE BATTERED AND ANGRY BRUTE FREES HIMSELF FROM A ROCK BOUND PRISON...



... NOT KNOWING WHERE TO TURN... WHO HE CAN TRUST... TRULY... ALONE!



NEXT: "THE BRUTE SPEAKS!"